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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Liang, et al.

Appl. No. : 09/919,758

Filed : July 31, 2001

For : METHOD FOR GENERATING
TRANSCRIPTIONALLY
ACTIVE DNA FRAGMENTS

Examiner : Unknown

) Group Art Unit 1655

) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
) marked attachments are being deposited with the
) United States Postal Service as first-class mail in
) an envelope addressed to: Assistant
) Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
) 20231, on

January 22, 2002

(Date)

James J. Mullen III, Ph.D., Reg. No. 44,957

02/19/2002 KUTLER1 00000059 09919750

01 FC:202
02 FC:203

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application on the merits, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 26, with the following paragraph:

In addition, molecules called PNA "clamps" have been synthesized which have two identical PNA sequences joined by a flexible hairpin linker containing three 8-amino-3,6-dioxaoctanoic acid units. When a PNA clamp is mixed with a complementary homopurine or homopyrimidine DNA target sequence, a PNA-DNA-PNA triplex hybrid can form which is extremely stable (Bentin et al., *Biochemistry* 35:8863-8869, 1996; Egholm et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 23:217-222, 1995; Griffith et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 117:831-832, 1995). The sequence-specific and high affinity duplex and triplex binding of PNA have been extensively described (Nielsen et al., *Science* 254:1497-1500, 1991; Egholm et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 114:9677-9678,